

MEMORIAL FOR A NORMAL SETTLEMENT.

As it appears from some of the Congressional reports that much misapprehension exists with respect to the object as well as the nature of our application, we may be allowed to trespass a little further on public attention in explaining what is meant by—A NORMAL SETTLEMENT.

We mean a settlement which is laid out in accordance with the laws of human nature in healthful action, as a patient subject to paroxysms is said to be in a normal state during his sane intervals.

We will now state what we do not ask for in our application:—

- 1st. We ask no grants of land, unless a Homestead Bill is passed;
- 2d. We ask no exclusive privileges for ourselves as the originators of the enterprise;
- 3d. We ask to erect no standard of a religious creed;

4th. We ask no appropriation, that by enriching our particular section shall give us a vantage ground, by which we may obtain and maintain a precedence of our fellow-citizens.

So much for what we do not ask. That which we do ask is:—

1st. Sufficient land to form a settlement on, which shall be able to sustain itself, and by that means will be a normal or model settlement. This will require about Twelve thousand acres in a square or compact body.

2d. That the said land shall be open to all actual settlers that shall be capable of performing their share of manufacture or operation, so as to supply their individual wants—of course immoral characters are not desired.

3d. That the said land having been furnished by congress for the purposes set forth, may be paid for by settlers as they come in, and that the title thereto be vested in such settlers; provided, that if they remove, it may be resold, and the money paid to the first settlers, and provided also that no settler may hold more than one portion. The price paid by the first settler is to be paid to the land office, but we would request that a little delay should be allowed to the settlers in making their payments viz. That one tenth should be paid per annum.

THIS IS ALL WE ASK.

REASONS FOR ASKING FOR LAND FOR A NORMAL SETTLEMENT.

1st. The most desirable arrangement of social life is that in which each citizen is possessor of his own land; can combine manufacturing with agriculture, and thus avoiding the evils of the Factory system, educate his children in a degree of moral, physical and mental vigor that is wholly unattainable by rich or poor under present circumstances.

Two points must be gained for this end; the first is, that a scope of land be secured sufficient in extent to sustain a sufficient number of persons to form a settlement; the other, that the dwellings be so near to one another that labor may most readily be combined or exchanged. About four miles square will supply two hundred and fifty forty-acre homesteads, with a town in the centre, the farthest off being within two miles from the centre where the colleges, and stores might be placed.

2d. None but actual settlers should be allowed to lay claims in our midst, as a systematic course of procedure will so enhance the value of the land, that any part not immediately occupied would be covered by the claims of absentee speculators, and thus the prospects held out to settlers to induce them to come on with the expectation of forming a desirable settlement will be blasted irretrievably and for ever!

3d. It is not possible for an American citizen, male or female, to compete with the forced labor of countries where the accumulated capital of ages is employed to reduce the cost of labor, unless they avail themselves of their only advantages, a cheap soil, a market at their door, and the ingenuity of a people who take pleasure in employments of their own free choice.

4th. Any wealthy persons wishing to raise stock or to carry on plantations will be benefited by having a dense settlement in their neighborhood, and can take up the land outside, but the soldier's widow, the fatherless, and all those who have to depend upon an immediate return from the labor of their hands for daily subsistence, can never establish themselves on an independent homestead, unless the population of the neighborhood be dense enough to warrant the investment of capital in manufactures, which will furnish sustenance whilst their lands are gradually improving. Any other settlement in wild lands than such as we propose causes a person of taste to shudder at the thought of being separated from all the endearments and elegancies of society by the solitary wastes held by speculators.

Whilst, therefore, whole counties are being DONATED to moneyed corporations, we think we ask nothing that is unreasonable when we claim the privilege of BUYING for the poor on the only system suitable to their necessities.

We therefore request permission to locate 12,000 acres in a body for a Normal Settlement.

Signed in be-half of the memorialists

WILLIAM REES, SECRETARY.

KEOKUK IOWA, Feb., 20th, 1857.